

---

## 2006 World Congress on Osteoarthritis

---



### Welcome from the President and Program Co-Chairs

Dear Colleagues,

The annual OARSI Congress is a global forum for basic scientists, clinical investigators, clinicians, radiologists, orthopedists, rheumatologists, industry scientists, policy makers, and others interested in osteoarthritis research and treatment.

Based on the success at last year's Congress in Boston, OARSI will again offer concurrent oral sessions with keynote talks related to the topics of presented abstracts. These sessions will address both clinical and basic science topics that appeal to a range of participants working in the field of osteoarthritis. We will also continue with the very popular Breakfast Workshops on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday mornings, which will allow a limited number of attendees to meet experts in specific areas of basic or clinical science.

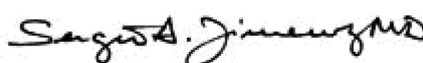
The program committee has put together an outstanding group of internationally recognized speakers for this OARSI Congress. The meeting opens Thursday afternoon, December 7, with a session that highlights current OARSI initiatives on treatment guidelines and osteoarthritis histopathology. The opening ceremony will feature presentation of OARSI awards and a keynote lecture from Dr. Bjorn R. Olsen.

The scientific sessions address basic research topics such as regulation of gene expression, cytokines, metalloproteinases, and biomechanics and clinical topics including joint replacement, clinical trial design, cartilage repair, pain mechanisms in osteoarthritis, and intervertebral disc degeneration.

The Congress program will provide you with an update on recent developments within the key areas of osteoarthritis. With its unique focus on osteoarthritis, the Congress will give you the opportunity to become part of the global network of individuals from the broad spectrum of disciplines that work towards better understanding and treating osteoarthritis. We welcome you, whether you are a returning member or joining us for the first time and extend a special invitation to our international attendees. Join us in Prague for superb science, warm collegiality, and an all around rewarding experience during this special time of year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Lotz'.

Martin Lotz, MD  
*President*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sergio A. Jimenez MD'.

Sergio Jimenez, MD  
*Congress Co-Chair*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karel Pavelka'.

Karel Pavelka, MD, PhD  
*Congress Co-Chair*